

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 SS-15 /059 W

----- 018494

R 271537Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9450

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AND REPERCUSSIONS RECEIVED BROAD COVERAGE IN ALL AUSTRIAN MEDIA BUT RELATIVELY LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT. MEDIA LET PICTURES OF INCIDENT AND FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, ALTHOUGH CONSISTENT USE OF TERM "MURDER" AND GENERAL TENOR OF REPORTS FIXED RESPONSIBILITY SQUARELY UPON NORTH KOREANS.

2. MFA/IO OFFICIAL VOLUNTERED TO EMBOFF THAT NORTH KOREANS WERE OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO GAIN ATTENTION AND SUPPORT OF NON-ALIGNED THEN MEETING AT COLOMBO SUMMIT. RADIO AND TV COMMENTATORS SURMISED SAME. "DIE PRESSE," VIENNA'S INDEPENDENT/CONSERVATIVE DAILY, EDITORIALIZED THAT EPISODE SHOWED U.S. TROOP PRESENCE WAS "PRECONDITION FOR THE STATE OF NON-WAR" IN KOREA. CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "KURIER" REFERRED EDITORIALY TO "PROVOKED CRISIS" WITH "CLASSICAL" DISPLAYS OF STRENGTH THAT SOMETIMES MISCARRY INTO REAL WAR. PAPER BELIEVES INCIDENT HAS BEEN USED TO SERVE QUITE CONTRARY INTERESTS OF NORTH KOREA AND UNITED STATES; BOTH WANT TO END UN ROLE IN KOREA, BUT NORTH KOREA IN WAY THAT RECOGNIZES ALL US TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA AS UN TROOPS, AND UNITED STATES IN WAY THAT PRESERVES ITS STRATEGIC POSITION IN PENINSULA.

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3. EMBASSY BELIEVES INCIDENT STRENGTHENS AUSTRIAN VIEW, STRONGLY HELD BY CHANCELLOR KREISKY, THAT ONLY BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN WESTERN AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES GUARANTEES PEACE, AND THAT IN SOME PLACES SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL, BOTH AS PART OF POWER EQUATION AND AS EARNEST OF US INTENT. AUSTRIANS HOPE UNITED STATES WILL RESPOND FIRMLY AND WITH RESOLUTION TO COMMUNIST THREATS AND CHALLENGES AND ARE HEARTENED WHEN WE DO. AUSTRIAN ALSO ASSUME COMMUNISTS CAPABLE OF ALMOST ANYTHING IN EXPLOITING WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS ADVANTAGES; SAVAGERY AT PANMUNJOM CONFIRMS THAT VIEW, TOO.

4. ONLY IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL RESULT OF INCIDENT EMBASSY SEES, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT SHOULD NOW BE EASIER FOR GOA TO MAINTAIN POSITION ON PROSPECTIVE KOREAN ITEM IN UNGA IT TOOK IN 1975 (I.E. WITH US ON PROCEDURE AND FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BUT ABSTAINING ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION) RATHER THAN "MORE EQUIDISTANT" POSITION FONMIN MENTIONED TO US LAST OCTOBER (75 VIENNA 9098).  
MEEHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DMZ, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 27 AUG 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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